

# LETTERS SENT BY DR. HADLEY LIKELY TO FIX SLAYING UPON HIM

## SISTER-IN-LAW TOLD WIFE DIED IN PORTO RICO

Second Missive, Expressing Grief, Penned After Recovery of Body.

### PLEA OF GUILTY EXPECTED

Virginia Authorities Believe Accused Surgeon Will Ask Court's Mercy.

RICHMOND, Va., Sept. 17.—Letters which Dr. Wilmarth Amos Hadley, charged with the murder of his wife, is alleged to have written to an army nurse, with whom he is said to have been infatuated, and to a sister of his wife, are expected to be important features of his trial in Henrico county circuit court next month.

All these letters were written after November 24, 1918, the date given as the day on which Hadley, according to a written confession which the Henrico county authorities say he signed, poisoned his wife and then threw her body into the James river here.

#### Confession Discredited.

The letters, which are in the possession of the Henrico county authorities, loom important as evidence for the prosecution in view of the fact that Hadley's alleged confession has been discredited to a certain extent by the finding alive in Hollywood, Calif., of Dr. Jesse A. Griffin, former reserve army surgeon and former professional associate of Hadley, whom the confession stated Hadley had shot and killed at the same time he slew his wife.

Another possible dramatic feature of the trial, in the belief of Sheriff W. Webb Sydnor and State's Attorney Welby Beverley, who brought Hadley back to Richmond, is that Hadley will admit his guilt in open court and ask mercy in view of the three years of remorse-ridden hermitage he lived on his ranch near Farmington, New Mexico, between the dates of the murder and his capture there recently. He is said to make his plea in the confession he is alleged to have signed before he departed from Denver, Colo., in custody of the Virginia officials.

Hadley was alleged to have been infatuated with an army nurse at Westhampton debarkation hospital, near Richmond, when he decided to do away with his wife, who was staying in a private home on West Grace street in this city while he was stationed at the hospital. Letters which he wrote her from his home, at Friendswood, Tex., after he left Richmond, early in December, 1918, before the body of his wife had been discovered, are expected to play an interesting part at the trial. After Mrs. Hadley's body had been identified the army nurse fainted, according to Sheriff Sydnor, when he told her the body was that of the wife of Dr. Hadley. When she was revived, she was quoted as having said that Hadley had told her that his wife had gone West to get a divorce. Since then, she has married a New York man and is living happily in that city. Her relations with Dr. Hadley were entirely innocent, in the opinion of the Henrico county authorities. She has assured them, they say, that she is ready at any time to come to Richmond and testify. She turned the letters over to Sheriff Sydnor before she quit the hospital service here.

Two other letters alleged to have been written by Hadley also figure prominently in the case. Both were written to Mrs. A. H. Evans, of Cincinnati, sister of Mrs. Hadley. One was mailed from Atlanta, Ga., December 5, 1918, the day after Dr. Hadley received an honorable discharge from the service here. In this, Mrs. Evans was informed that her sister had died of influenza at San Juan, Porto Rico, November 24, 1918, and had been buried in the government cemetery there. The second was dispatched from Friendswood, Tex., January 2, 1919, three days after the discovery of Mrs. Hadley's body, but several weeks before it was identified. This contained renewed expressions of grief over the loss of his wife. These two letters are also in the custody of the Henrico authorities.

## Guy Spiker's Strange War Romance Shattered; Girl He Wed for Brother's Sake Finds Soulmate



"Through With Her," Says Man Who Married Mother of Brother's Babe.

By C. LEO GIBSON.

"I never loved you, anyway. Your sacrifice was in vain. I've gone, and you need not try to find me. If you do you will find trouble."

This note was the climax that shattered the war romance of Guy Spiker, of Baltimore, who married and made a home for Emily Knowles Spiker, the mother, holding Perley's child. Below is Guy Spiker, Perley's brother, who married Emily when she arrived here with the baby. Two weeks ago Emily left Guy Spiker's home, saying she had found her real "soulmate."

never want to see her again. And, if I ever again see the soldier who stole her from me, I fear what I might do.

Located by a reporter in a small apartment in West Baltimore, to which she fled after departing from the home of her husband, Mrs. Emily Knowles-Spiker declared she has at last found her soulmate. She spoke freely of her new love and declared that her supposed happy life with Guy Spiker was all a sham.

"It was all a terrible mistake," she confided to the reporter. "Perley and my husband, although on the



ABOVE (left, is Mrs. Perley R. Spiker, who adopted the English war baby of her husband. On the right is Mrs. Emily Knowles Spiker, the mother, holding Perley's child. Below is Guy Spiker, Perley's brother, who married Emily when she arrived here with the baby. Two weeks ago Emily left Guy Spiker's home, saying she had found her real "soulmate."

surface the best friends I had, never treated me with the love and respect that I believe I was entitled to. I can see it all now. I suppose I was a fool to expect that the unusual situation in which I found myself when I came to this country with my baby would ever turn out happy.

"The fact that our marriage did not turn out well is not upon my soul, and today at this very minute, I am the happiest woman in the world, because I feel that I had the courage to pull away from the Spikers and because I have found the one man I really care for."

"During my stay at the Spiker home I was constantly under a nervous strain, and things were made unpleasant because they persisted in making unkind remarks about my past character while they often criticized my wearing apparel."

Perley Spiker and his wife, who forgave her erring husband upon his return from war and admitted he was the father of another woman

## Son Takes Trip; Gossips Try to Lynch Father

ELKINS, W. Va., Sept. 17.—NORMAN LEMASTER, held in jail on a charge of murdering his son, and against whom there was talk of lynching, has been set free.

The boy was found at Ardin, W. Va., all unconscious of the predicament into which his father had been thrown as a result of his disappearance.

It was charged that some of Lemaster's neighbors saw the boy running from his home and later heard a pistol shot and screams. They did not see the boy for several days and became suspicious.

an's child and who took the child into her home, adopted him and cares for him as if he were her own, say their attitude is the same as Guy's.

"My conscience is clear," repeats Guy when discussing his wife.

"About a month ago, Emily seemed unhappy. She became morose, seemed unhappy. She neglected the housework. I worked hard at the steel plant. I returned home on several occasions, tired and worn out. She would not be at home."

"I insisted that she remain home for me. When I asked her where she had been, she replied it was none of my affair. I began to suspect something wrong. It dawned on me finally that maybe the soldier was alienating her affections from me. Conditions became so objectionable that I spoke of my suspicions. That night when I returned home, I found the note on the dining room table."

"Well, I'm gone," she wrote. I hurried to Perley's home, showed him the note. He was not so shocked. But the two of us started out to search for Emily. At Howard and Fayette streets, we saw her in a drugstore drinking soda with the soldier. We followed them to a room. We trapped them. I don't know how I controlled myself. I felt like throwing myself at the pair of them."

"But they did not see us, and Perley drew me away. 'Perley,' I said, 'that's what I get for my sacrifice.'"

## HADLEY SEEKS REVENGE OR IS INSANE, HE SAYS

May Even Be Feigning Madness, Declares Dr. Jesse A. Guffin.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 17.—"Hadley's statements are wild. They are either the ravings of a madman or the diabolical desire of a guilty man to drag one innocent down for revenge. He may be feigning insanity."

This was the statement of Dr. Jesse Ansley Griffin, who was named by Dr. Wilmarth Amos Hadley, under arrest in Richmond, Va., in a confession in which Hadley admits slaying his wife there three years ago.

Hadley is said to have declared Griffin had been paying attention to his wife and that he shot them both when he found them together.

Dr. Griffin was found in Hollywood, Cal., where he is well and favorably known and has built up a comfortable practice since returning from the world war. He lives at 5271 De Longpre avenue with his wife and daughter. At first he was indignant when he learned of Hadley's charge. Then he smiled.

"It's so utterly foolish," he said. "If anyone believes such a thing, let him look up my army records at the adjutant general's office in Washington. Those records will show I was in France when Hadley says I was with his wife. Further—"

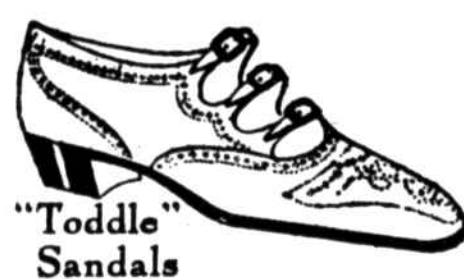
He turned to his wife. From a desk, after considerable rummaging, she produced a package of letters and cards. They were from Dr. Griffin and were postmarked France. Half a dozen and more were dated around the time Dr. Hadley charged Dr. Griffin was in America.

"I saw Hadley last in November, 1916," Dr. Griffin continued. "That was two years before the crime he is alleged to have committed. We were working together in a hospital at Eagle, Col. Hadley got into trouble. He was a splendid surgeon, but was always mixed up with other women. His wife—yes, I knew her, too—was insanely jealous. She ran up huge debts for diamonds and clothes. Creditors kept him worried all the time."

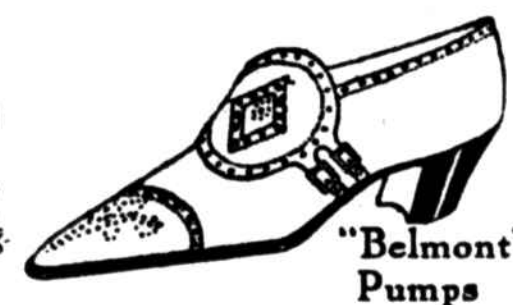
"His trouble started at the hospital when he tried to work an insurance company by pretending some sort of injury to his back. I exposed him, and that turned him sour against me. As a matter of fact, his wife upbraided me one time in the presence of my wife, blaming me because Hadley had lost his position at the hospital."

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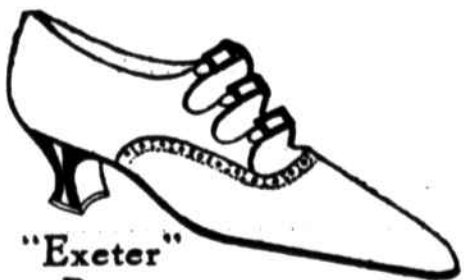
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